

ZIKA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the symptoms? They are mild. Only 20% of people will develop symptoms which will usually resolve by themselves within a week.

Why should I be worried about Zika infection if the symptoms are mild? The virus has been linked to potentially causing birth defects and to women who are planning to get pregnant.

Is there treatment? There is no vaccine or specific drug against the virus. If diagnosed with Zika, get plenty of bed rest, drink plenty of fluids, take medicine to relieve fever and pain and avoid mosquito bites for at least 7 days after onset of illness

How do you prevent Zika infection? Minimize exposure to mosquito bites.

- Cover your skin. Wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants.
- Use an insect repellent approved by the U.S. EPA.
- Make sure window and door screens are in place and are not torn or ripped.
- Eliminate containers that can hold water
 - Including but not limited to cups, bottles, buckets, gutters, barrels, bird baths, wheel barrows, tires, etc.

Will Zika be found in Shelby County, TN? Shelby County has 48 species of mosquitoes, but only one is likely to transmit Zika. The Asian tiger mosquito can be found throughout Shelby County, but it is most common in urban areas.

- It is a black mosquito with white stripes on its back, and legs.
- The females attach their eggs above the surface of the water in containers
- The immature mosquito will develop inside the container for 7-10 days
- Adults typically live for 3 weeks.
- They fly short distances typically an area the size of a football field.
- In Shelby County, it is active late April through early November.
- Females are daytime biters and most active in the morning and afternoon.

How can someone control the Asian tiger mosquito?

- Check your yard for water-filled containers weekly.
- Throw away any containers, tires, trash and debris.
- Clean bird baths and pet-watering dishes at least once a week.
- Clean your gutters and cover rain barrels with a tight fitting screen.
- Store any needed items under roof so they do not fill with water.

How can I report a problem? Call Shelby County Vector Control at (901) 222-9715 or email vector.control@shelbycountyttn.gov